



**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

PHILIP L. BROWNING  
Director

November 9, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Philip L. Browning  
Director

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**FIVE ACRES FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING  
REVIEW**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Out-of-Home Care Management Division (OHCMD) conducted a review of Five Acres Foster Family Agency (Five Acres FFA) in August 2012. Five Acres FFA has one licensed office in the First Supervisorial District and provides services to Los Angeles County DCFS foster children and youth. According to Five Acres FFA program statement, its mission is "to help families raise children to become caring and productive adults by building on their strengths and those of their communities by working to: prevent child abuse and neglect; care for, treat and educate emotionally disturbed, abused and neglected children and their families in residential and outreach programs; advance the welfare of children and families by research, advocacy and collaboration; and strive for the highest standards of excellence by professionals and volunteers."

At the time of the review, Five Acres FFA supervised 45 DCFS placed children in 24 certified foster homes. The placed children's average length of placement was 15 months and their average age was nine.

**SUMMARY**

During our review, the interviewed children generally reported feeling safe at Five Acres FFA; having been provided with good care and appropriate services; being comfortable in their environment and treated with respect and dignity. The certified foster parents reported they were supported by the Five Acres FFA staff in their efforts to provide care,

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care, supervision and service delivery to the children placed in their homes.

Five Acres FFA was in full compliance with three of 11 sections of our program compliance review: Psychotropic Medication; Discharged Children; and Personnel Records.

We noted deficiencies in the area of Licensure/Contract Requirements, one of which posed a safety risk to a placed child under the age of four as the certified foster parent was transporting the child without using a car seat, resulting in OHCMD placing a call to the Child Protection Hotline (CPHL).

We also noted findings in the area of Certified Foster Homes related to Five Acres FFA failing to contact OHCMD to obtain historical abuse information on a prospective certified foster parent prior to certification, and certified foster parents' files lacking documentation of vehicle maintenance.

There were findings in the area of Facility and Environment as one certified foster home did not have a dining set and therefore did maintain a home-like setting.

In the area of Maintenance of Required Documentation/Service Delivery, the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were not discussed with the certified foster parents. Additionally, we noted deficiencies in the area of Education and Workforce Readiness as well as in the area of Health and Medical needs, related to current report cards not being on file, and untimely initial medical and dental examinations. Lastly, there were deficiencies in the Personal Rights and Social Emotional Well-Being area as well as Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being, related to certified foster parents not providing meals to placed children, and placed children not having Life Books/Photo Albums.

Attached are the details for our review.

### **REVIEW OF REPORT**

On September 10, 2012, the DCFS OHCMD Monitor, Darío Villamarín held an Exit Conference with Five Acres FFA representative, Eric Weaver, Foster Care and Intensive Treatment Foster Care Program Supervisor and Gagan Sandhu, Social Worker Supervisor. Five Acres FFA representatives agreed with the findings and recommendations; were receptive to implementing systemic changes to improve their compliance with regulatory standards; and agreed to address the noted deficiencies in a Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

A copy of this compliance report has been sent to the A-C and Community Care Licensing (CCL).



Each Supervisor  
November 9, 2012  
Page 3

Five Acres FFA provided the attached approved CAP addressing the recommendations noted in this compliance report.

We will confirm that these recommendations have been implemented during our next monitoring review.

If you have any questions, your staff may contact me or Aldo Marin, Board Relations Manager, at (213) 351-5530.

PLB:RRS:KR  
EAH:NF:dv

#### Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Wendy Watanabe, Auditor-Controller  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee  
Chanel Boutakidis, Executive Director, Five Acres FFA  
Angelica López, Acting Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing  
Deborah Santos, Acting Regional Manager, Community Care Licensing

**FIVE ACRES FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY  
CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW  
FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013**

**SCOPE OF REVIEW**

The purpose of this review was to assess Five Acres FFA's compliance with the County contract requirements and State regulations, and included a review of Five Acres FFA program statement, as well as administrative internal policies and procedures. The monitoring review covered the following 11 areas:

- Licensure/Contract Requirements
- Certified Foster Homes
- Facility and Environment
- Maintenance of Required Documentation and Service Delivery
- Educational and Workforce Readiness
- Health and Medical Needs
- Psychotropic Medication
- Personal Rights and Social Emotional Well-Being
- Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being
- Discharged Children
- Personnel Records

For purposes of this review, six children were selected for the sample and we reviewed all six case files to assess the care and services they received. We interviewed three children, as one did not want to be interviewed, and two were non-verbal. Additionally, four discharged children's files were also reviewed to assess Five Acres' compliance with permanency efforts. At the time of the review, four placed children were prescribed psychotropic medication; we reviewed their case files to assess for timeliness of Psychotropic Medication Authorizations (PMAs) and to confirm the required documentation of psychiatric monitoring.

We reviewed three certified foster parent files and four staff files were reviewed for compliance with Title 22 Regulations and County contract requirements. Interviews were conducted with three certified foster parents to assess the quality of care and supervision provided to children.

**CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE**

We found the following eight areas to be out of compliance.

**Licensure/Contract Requirements**

- In one of three certified foster homes visited, there were three children, all under the age of four. Although the certified foster mother had car seats for all three children, she was not using a car seat for the oldest child when transporting the children. The certified foster mother stated that the child did not like to be seated in the car seat,



and that he was old enough to ride in a vehicle without the car seat. Child Safety California Law requires children under age eight or who are less than 4'9" in height to be secured in a rear car seat in a passenger restraint system. This was brought to Five Acres' attention and subsequently corrected. The Out-of-Home Care Management Division (OHCMD) monitor placed a call to the Child Protection Hotline (CPHL) as this issue rose to the level of general neglect. The investigation is pending. During the Exit Conference, Five Acres' representatives stated that Five Acres FFA social workers were re-trained and instructed to ask specific questions with regard to car seats.

### **Recommendation**

Five Acres FFA management shall ensure that:

1. All certified foster parents with children required to be transported in car seats, use car seats to transport children and are familiar with the Child Safety California Law; and that FFA social workers routinely inspect the foster homes to ensure on-going compliance.

### **Certified Foster Homes**

- For one certified foster home, Five Acres FFA did not contact OHCMD regarding historical abuse information on the prospective foster parent prior to certifying the home. During the Exit Conference, Five Acres FFA representatives stated that information would be gathered from the agency's Certification and Training Coordinator to verify if the OHCMD was contacted. In a subsequent email, Five Acres FFA representatives stated that the agency's Certification and Training Coordinator reported this was not a requirement at the time of foster mother's certification. However, the certified foster mother was certified after the current County contract requirement, which became effective in November 2008, and OHCMD is concerned that Five Acres' staff was not aware of this requirement. During the monitoring review, the foster mother's historical abuse information was researched and there were no records of abuse/neglect.
- The three certified foster parents' files reviewed did not have documentation of vehicle maintenance, prior to certification and/or for re-certification. Not only is this a contractual requirement, but also included in the Five Acres' FFA program statement, Section 29, Transportation, which states: "the Recruitment and Training Coordinator shall inspect the resource parent's [prospective] vehicle at the time of certification to assure that it has adequate seating capacity, the proper seat belts/car seats, and is maintained in a safe operation condition. The FFA social worker shall inspect the vehicle periodically during home visits and at the family's annual certification. This documentation shall be documented in the social workers case notes and on Safety Inspection form at the annual home inspection." This was immediately brought to Five Acres' attention and subsequently corrected. Although Five Acres' representatives did not make a comment during the Exit Conference, the agency subsequently provided verification of vehicle maintenance for all three foster parents reviewed.



### **Recommendations**

Five Acres FFA management shall ensure that:

2. OHCMMD is contacted for historical abuse information regarding prospective certified foster parents prior to certification.
3. All required vehicle maintenance documentation is maintained in the certified foster parents' files and in accordance with the County contract and the FFA's program statement.
4. FFA social workers, supervising social workers and Recruitment and Training Coordinator are familiar with the County contract requirements and the FFA's program statement.

### **Facility and Environment**

- In the certified foster home, where a referral was generated for safety risks, the home did not have a dining set to provide a home-like environment, accommodating all who reside in the home; instead, a two-foot high round table and small plastic chairs were being used. As the certified foster mother is also a day care provider, the table is used for the children's recreational activities. The certified foster mother stated that the dining table broke a while back, and that Five Acres FFA social worker did not tell her that the dining table needed to be replaced. During the Exit Conference, Five Acres FFA representatives stated that the agency will follow up with the finding to ensure that the certified foster mother complies and obtains appropriate furniture.

### **Recommendation**

Five Acres FFA management shall ensure that:

5. All certified foster homes have appropriate dining sets to accommodate all residents in the home and that FFA social workers inspect the foster homes to ensure on-going compliance.

### **Maintenance of Required Documentation/Service Delivery**

- One of the three certified foster parents interviewed stated not being familiar with the NSPs and that she did not have copies of the NSPs for the children placed in her home. During the Exit Conference, Five Acres FFA representatives stated that the perhaps the certified foster mother did not understand the term [NSP]. They also stated that prior to developing the NSPs, the agency social workers sit with the certified foster parents and go through them, and that the entire NSP is provided to each certified foster parent.

### **Recommendation**

Five Acres FFA management shall ensure that:

6. All children's NSPs are discussed with certified foster parents and copies are provided for their records.

### **Education and Workforce Readiness**

- One foster child's file did not contain her current report card. During the Exit Conference, Five Acres' representatives stated that they would check as to the reason why the report card was not in file. In a subsequent email, Five Acres' representatives stated that the agency's social worker reported that the foster parent never received a report card from the school. However, it is the expectation that the certified foster parents and or the FFA social workers contact the children's schools to obtain the children's report cards.

### **Recommendation**

Five Acres FFA management shall ensure that:

7. Report cards are in all children's files and certified foster parents and/or FFA social workers retrieve copies when the foster parents do not receive the children's report cards.

### **Health and Medical Needs**

- We noted that the initial medical examination was three days late, and the initial dental examination was two months late for one child. During the Exit Conference, Five Acres' representatives stated that they would review the case notes as they believed there was a problem with the child's Medi-Cal card. In a subsequent email, Five Acres' representatives stated that the dates noted in the child's file were the earliest available appointments and were in fact past the 30 days.

### **Recommendation**

Five Acres FFA management shall ensure that:

8. All age-appropriate children have an initial medical and dental examination within 30 days of placement, FFA staff routinely monitors for on-going compliance, and documentation is maintained in the children's files.

### **Personal Rights and Social/Emotional Well-Being**

- In one of three certified foster homes visited, two placed teenage children stated that the certified foster mother does not prepare meals frequently for them, and that they help themselves with meals. Although there was plenty of food in the certified foster home, the foster mother stated that she does not frequently cook for the



placed children; however, the certified foster mother makes the food available to the children to help themselves. During the Exit Conference, Five Acres' representatives stated that during a home visit, the agency's social worker saw the certified foster mother cooking. They also stated that the certified foster mother expressed to be overwhelmed and her desire was to stop fostering temporarily; therefore, the two placed teenage children were replaced. Five Acres' representatives also stated that if in the future, the certified foster mother wants to foster children again, the agency will re-evaluate the certified foster home by completing an addendum to the home study and further training will be provided, prior to children being placed in this home.

### **Recommendation**

Five Acres FFA management shall ensure that:

9. Certified foster parents prepare meals for placed children and FFA social workers routinely ask the children if foster parents prepare meals for them.

### **Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being**

- Two of the three certified foster parents interviewed stated that they did not have Life Books/Photo Albums for the placed children. During the Exit Conference, Five Acres' representatives stated that the agency provided training to certified foster parents in the past regarding Life Books/Photo Albums, and another training will be provided.

### **Recommendation**

Five Acres FFA management shall ensure that:

10. All children have a life book or photo albums.

### **PRIOR YEAR FOLLOW-UP FROM DCFS OHCMD's FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW**

The OHCMD's last compliance report dated April 3, 2012, identified five recommendations.

### **Results**

Based on our follow-up, Five Acres FFA fully implemented four of five previous recommendations for which they were to ensure that:

- Adults residing in the certified foster homes have a health-screening and documentation is on file.
- There is sufficient perishable and non-perishable food to last seven days in the house at all times.



- Social Workers have monthly contact with the DCFS Children's Social Workers (CSWs) to update the children's progress per the contract.
- Documentation of Social Workers' required annual training hours are maintained in their personnel file.

Based on our follow-up, Five Acres FFA did not fully implement one of five previous recommendations for which they were to ensure that:

- Prior to certifying a foster home, the OHCMD is contacted to obtain historical abuse information. Since this recommendation was not implemented, the OHCMD is requesting a CAP in this area to remediate this finding.

**MOST RECENT FISCAL REVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

A fiscal review of Five Acres FFA has not been posted by the A-C.

**FIVE ACRES FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY  
CONTRACT PROGRAM COMPLIANCE MONITORING REVIEW-SUMMARY**

**4401 Santa Anita Avenue, El Monte, CA, 91731  
License Number: 197805113**

	<b>Contract Compliance Monitoring Review</b>	<b>Findings: August 2012</b>
I	<p><b><u>Licensure/Contract Requirements</u></b> (7 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Timely Notification for Child's Relocation</li> <li>2. Serious Incident Report Documentation and Cross Reporting</li> <li>3. Runaway Procedures</li> <li>4. Are there CCL Citations/OHCMD Safety Reports</li> <li>5. If Applicable, FFA Ensures Complete Required Whole Foster Family Home Training</li> <li>6. FFA Pays Certified Foster Parents Whole Foster Family Home Payments</li> <li>7. Assessment of Certified Foster Parent (CFP) Prior to Placement of Two (2) or More Children</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Compliance</li> <li>2. Full Compliance</li> <li>3. Full Compliance</li> <li>4. Improvement Needed</li> <li>5. Not Applicable</li> <li>6. Not Applicable</li> <li>7. Full Compliance</li> </ol>
II	<p><b><u>Certified Foster Homes (CFHs)</u></b> (12 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Home Study and Safety Inspection Prior to Certification</li> <li>2. Contact with References/Including Check with OHCMD</li> <li>3. Timely DOJ, FBI, CACI,</li> <li>4. Timely, Completed, Signed Criminal Background Statement</li> <li>5. Health Screening &amp; TB Test Prior to Certification</li> <li>6. Required Training Prior to Certification</li> <li>7. Certificate of Approval on File/Including Capacity</li> <li>8. Safety Inspection Every Six Months or Per Approved Program Statement</li> <li>9. Completed Training Hours for Re-certification and Current CPR/First-Aid/Water Safety Certificates</li> <li>10. Current CDL/Auto Insurance/Annual Vehicle Maintenance Documentation for CFPs and Designated Drivers</li> <li>11. Other Adults In The Home: Health Screening/CDL/CPR DOJ/FBI/CACI/Auto Insurance</li> <li>12. FFA Assists CFPs with Transportation Needs</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Compliance</li> <li>2. Improvement Needed</li> <li>3. Full Compliance</li> <li>4. Full Compliance</li> <li>5. Full Compliance</li> <li>6. Full Compliance</li> <li>7. Full Compliance</li> <li>8. Full Compliance</li> <li>9. Full Compliance</li> <li>10. Improvement Needed</li> <li>11. Full Compliance</li> <li>12. Full Compliance</li> </ol>



III	<b><u>Facility and Environment</u></b> (7 Elements) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exterior/Grounds Well Maintained</li> <li>2. Common Areas Maintained</li> <li>3. Children's Bedrooms/Interior Maintained</li> <li>4. Sufficient Educational Resources</li> <li>5. Adequate Perishable and Non-Perishable Food</li> <li>6. Disaster Drills Conducted and Documentation Maintained</li> <li>7. Allowance Logs Maintained</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Compliance</li> <li>2. Improvement Needed</li> <li>3. Full Compliance</li> <li>4. Full Compliance</li> <li>5. Full Compliance</li> <li>6. Full Compliance</li> <li>7. Full Compliance</li> </ol>
IV	<b><u>Maintenance of Required Documentation/Service Delivery</u></b> (10 Elements) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. County Worker's Authorization to Implement NSPs</li> <li>2. NSPs Implemented and Discussed with Foster Parents</li> <li>3. Children Progressing Towards Meeting NSP Goals</li> <li>4. Develop Timely, Comprehensive Initial NSP With Child's Participation</li> <li>5. Develop Timely, Comprehensive Updated NSPs With Child's Participation</li> <li>6. Therapeutic Services Received</li> <li>7. Recommended Assessments/Evaluations Implemented</li> <li>8. County Workers Monthly Contacts Documented in Child's Case File</li> <li>9. Develop Timely, Comprehensive Quarterly Reports</li> <li>10. FFA Social Workers Conduct Required Visits</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Compliance</li> <li>2. Improvement Needed</li> <li>3. Full Compliance</li> <li>4. Full Compliance</li> <li>5. Full Compliance</li> <li>6. Full Compliance</li> <li>7. Full Compliance</li> <li>8. Full Compliance</li> <li>9. Full Compliance</li> <li>10. Full Compliance</li> </ol>
V	<b><u>Education and Workforce Readiness</u></b> (5 Elements) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children Enrolled in School Within Three School Days</li> <li>2. Children Attend School as Required and FFA Facilitates Children's Educational Goals Met</li> <li>3. Children's Academic Performance and/or Attendance Increased</li> <li>4. Current Report Cards Maintained</li> <li>5. FFA Facilitates Child's Participation in YDS/Equivalent/Vocational Programs</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Compliance</li> <li>2. Full Compliance</li> <li>3. Full Compliance</li> <li>4. Improvement Needed</li> <li>5. Not applicable</li> </ol>

VI	<b><u>Health and Medical Needs</u></b> (4 Elements) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial Medical Exams Conducted Timely</li> <li>2. Follow-up Medical Exams Conducted Timely</li> <li>3. Initial Dental Exams Conducted Timely</li> <li>4. Follow-Up Dental Exams Conducted Timely</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improvement Needed</li> <li>2. Full Compliance</li> <li>3. Improvement Needed</li> <li>4. Full Compliance</li> </ol>
VII	<b><u>Psychotropic Medications</u></b> (2 Elements) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Current Court Authorization for Administration of Psychotropic Medication</li> <li>2. Current Psychiatric Evaluation Review</li> </ol>	Full Compliance (ALL)
VIII	<b><u>Personal Rights and Social Emotional Well-Being</u></b> (10 Elements) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children Informed of Agency's Policies and Procedures</li> <li>2. Children Feel Safe</li> <li>3. CFPs' Efforts to Provide Meals and Snacks</li> <li>4. CFPs Treat Children with Respect and Dignity</li> <li>5. Children Allowed Private Visits, Calls and to Receive Correspondence</li> <li>6. Children Free to Attend or Not Attend Religious Services/Activities</li> <li>7. Reasonable Chores</li> <li>8. Children Informed About Their Medication and Right to Refuse Medication</li> <li>9. Children Aware of Right to Refuse Medical, Dental and Psychiatric Care</li> <li>10. Children Given Opportunities to Participate in Extra-Curricular Activities, Enrichment and Social Activities</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Compliance</li> <li>2. Full Compliance</li> <li>3. Improvement Needed</li> <li>4. Full Compliance</li> <li>5. Full Compliance</li> <li>6. Full Compliance</li> <li>7. Full Compliance</li> <li>8. Full Compliance</li> <li>9. Full Compliance</li> <li>10. Full Compliance</li> </ol>



IX	<p><b><u>Personal Needs/Survival and Economic Well-Being</u></b> (7 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clothing Allowance in Accordance with FFA Program Statement (\$50 Minimum If After November 1, 2012)</li> <li>2. Ongoing Clothing Inventories of Adequate Quantity and Quality</li> <li>3. Children's Involvement in Selection of Clothing</li> <li>4. Provision of Sufficient Supply of Clean Towels and Personal Care Items Meeting Ethnic Needs</li> <li>5. Minimum Monetary Allowances</li> <li>6. Management of Allowance/Earnings</li> <li>7. Encouragement/Assistance with Life Book</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Compliance</li> <li>2. Full Compliance</li> <li>3. Full Compliance</li> <li>4. Full Compliance</li> <li>5. Full Compliance</li> <li>6. Full Compliance</li> <li>7. Improvement Needed</li> </ol>
X	<p><b><u>Discharged Children</u></b> (2 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completed Discharge Summary</li> <li>2. Child Completed High School (if applicable)</li> </ol>	<p>Full Compliance (ALL)</p>
XI	<p><b><u>Personnel Records</u></b> ( 9 Elements)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DOJ, FBI, Child Abuse Criminal Index (CACI) Submitted Timely</li> <li>2. Timely, Completed, Signed Criminal Background Statement</li> <li>3. Education/Experience Requirements</li> <li>4. Employee Health Screening/TB Timely</li> <li>5. Valid CDL and Auto Insurance</li> <li>6. Signed Copies of FFA Policies and Procedures</li> <li>7. Staff Completed All Required Training and Documentation Maintained</li> <li>8. FFA Social Workers Have Appropriate Caseload Ratio</li> <li>9. Written Declarations For Contract FFA Social Workers That Caseloads Not Exceed Total of 15 Children</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Compliance</li> <li>2. Full Compliance</li> <li>3. Full Compliance</li> <li>4. Full Compliance</li> <li>5. Full Compliance</li> <li>6. Full Compliance</li> <li>7. Full Compliance</li> <li>8. Full Compliance</li> <li>9. Not Applicable</li> </ol>



**five acres**

THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

760 W. MOUNTAIN VIEW ST., ALTADENA, CA 91001-4996 (626) 798-6793  
FAX (626) 797-7722 ♦ TTY (626) 585-1683 ♦ [www.5acres.org](http://www.5acres.org) ♦ email: [for5acres@earthlink.net](mailto:for5acres@earthlink.net)

October 9, 2012

LA County DCFS OHCMD  
9320 Telstar Avenue, Suite 216  
El Monte, CA 91731  
Office (626) 569-6827  
Fax (626) 572-2367  
Attention: Mr. Villamarin

Re: Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

Dear Mr. Villamarin:

Following is the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Five Acres audit in August and September of 2012:

The DCFS review stated the following findings:

1. One of the three certified foster parents' did not use a car seat for a minor. At the time of our review, one of the foster parents though had a car seat for the minor but did not use it.
2. One of the three certified foster parents' records did not include historical abuse information on the prospective foster parent prior to certification. At the time of our review, one of the foster parents did not have the Historical report request reference in the file.
3. All three foster homes visited did not have their annual vehicle inspection completed at the beginning of the audit review period. However, all three homes provided proof of their vehicle inspection prior to the completion of the audit.
4. One of the three foster homes visited did not have a proper dining table set during the audit review. The foster parent purchased a dining table set. See attached picture.
5. One of the three foster parents with two of six case files reviewed did not have a copy of the Needs and Service Plan (NSP) in their home file.
6. One of the six case files reviewed did not have a copy of the report card in the client's file.
7. One of the six case files reviewed did not have an initial medical and dental appointment completed within the 30 days of placement.



8. Two of the six children interviewed reported not having nutritious palatable meals and snacks. It was reported that one of the foster parents though having adequate food in the home reported she does not prepare meals.
9. Four of the six children interviewed did not have a life book or photo album.

The following Corrective Action Plan was implemented immediately:

1. Foster Care Social Workers (FCSW) will ensure all children who are under the age of 8 years or less than 4'9" will be transported in a car seat. FCSWs were retrained by Social Worker Supervisor (SWS) and instructed to ask specific questions with regards to car seats. These questions have been implemented into the new format of the home visit log. (See attached).
2. Five Acres Certification Coordinator will ensure that the Historical report is requested from Out of Home Care and the request sent to Out of Home Care is received and then filed in the parent binder under the clearance tab. To ensure that the Historical report is filed in the parent binder, this has been included in the Five Acres pre-certification list (see attached). Furthermore, the Training, Certification, and Matching Coordinator was re-trained by the Program Supervisor on the Program Statement and the DCFS contract. A Certification Historical Examination was completed as a receipt of the training. (see attached)
3. All prospective and certified foster parents will have in their files documentation of vehicle maintenance, prior to certification and/ or for re-certification. SWS trained all FFA staff on the new Vehicle Inspection Check FCSWs will complete annual vehicle inspection for certified foster parents in addition to one completed by a certified mechanic. The pre- certification team will ensure a vehicle inspection is completed prior to certification and file in the file under Vehicle Inspection Tab. (See attached Vehicle Inspection Check)
4. All certified foster homes will have dining sets and the FCSWs will inspect the foster homes to ensure ongoing compliance. FCSWs will document in their home visit logs.
5. FCSWs will ensure that all certified foster parents are familiar with NSPs and maintain a copy for their records in the client's home binder. In addition, FCSWs will set a meeting with the resource parents five days prior to the due date of the NSP and review the NSP with the resource parents.
6. FCSWs will ensure that report cards are in all children's files, and certified foster parents and FCSWs will retrieve copies from the school when the foster parents do not receive the children's report cards. If resource parent does not receive the report card from the school, resource parent & FCSW will call the school to receive a copy of the report card.

7. FCSWs will ensure that all age- appropriate children will have an initial medical and dental examination within 30 days of placement. FCSWs will document in the home visit note and ensure ongoing compliance and documentation is maintained in the children's files.
8. Certified foster parents will prepare meals for placed children and FCSWs will routinely ask the children if the foster parents prepare meals for them and document in the home visit log.
9. FCSWs will ensure that children placed will have a life book or photo album. FCSWs will ask the children and foster parent and document in the file. Five Acres FFA will provide training to the foster parents on how to complete a life book.

Please note that the above nine protocols were presented by Social Worker Supervisor and Program Supervisor to the FFA and ITFC staff during a staff meeting that took place on September 19, 2012 (Please see attached form). In addition, please note that life book training has been scheduled for the Resource Parents for the Resource Parent Support meeting to be held on November 14, 2012. Furthermore, SWS, Recruitment and Training Coordinator, and Program Supervisor created a Title 22 examination. (See attached). All FFA and ITFC staff completed the test on October 3, 2012. In addition to the Title 22 training; On October 8, 2012 training was conducted for all FC and ITFC staff by the Program Supervisor and Social Worker Supervisor on the Program Statement and the DCFS contract. An examination was completed for both of these trainings. (See attached) These three examinations will also be provided to all new hire staff.

If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach me at 626-246-1729.

Sincerely,



Gagan Sandhu, MA  
Foster Care Social Worker Supervisor

cc: Eric Weaver, LMFT, Program Supervisor  
cc: Marianne Guilfoyle, LCSW, Program Director